



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
-----------------	-------------	----------------------	---------------------	------------------

10/509,382

05/31/2005

Koji Sugiyama

121284

5076

25944

7590

11/20/2009

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC

P.O. BOX 320850

ALEXANDRIA, VA 22320-4850

EXAMINER

MCCLAIN, GERALD

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3653

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

11/20/2009

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/509,382	Applicant(s) SUGIYAMA ET AL.	
	Examiner Gerald W. McClain	Art Unit 3653	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 July 2009.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

The amendment filed 14 July 2009 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

Claims 1-14 and 16-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stier (WO 99/47362 A1) in view of Tanaka (Japanese Patent Publication 04-317929 A). Stier discloses:

Claims 1 and 16: printer (abstract); package member (20); sheet package (10); flap member (18); first fastening member (38); first side (24); second fastening member (36); second side (22); edge at an end (see FIG. 7 below, EE); (Regarding the Claim 16 (and 17), see MPEP § 2115, "Material Or Article Worked Upon Does Not Limit Apparatus Claims");

Claim 2: flap member (18); portion of the package member (26);

Claim 3: package member (20); portion (26); prescribed part (32);

Claim 4: package member (20); tongue part (18); portion of the package member (26); pressing member (page 2, line 15); roller (Claims 8/10); printer (abstract); (Note: since there is a roller, the pressing member either may directly push the sheets, or the roller may press the sheets against the pressing member that is in static position (reactive force).)

Art Unit: 3653

Claim 5: package member (20); first cut (36); second side (22); portion of the package member (26);

Claim 6: package member (20); second cut (38); first side (24); portion of the package member (26);

Claim 7: second cut (38); tongue part (18);

Claim 8: package member (20); sheet packages (10); part of the package member (26); first cut (24); (Note: packages “can be” connected together in at least a lateral aligned state.)

Claim 9: package member (20); wrapping part (40/42); part of an outside of the tongue part (area of 24 near 40/42); tab (40A);

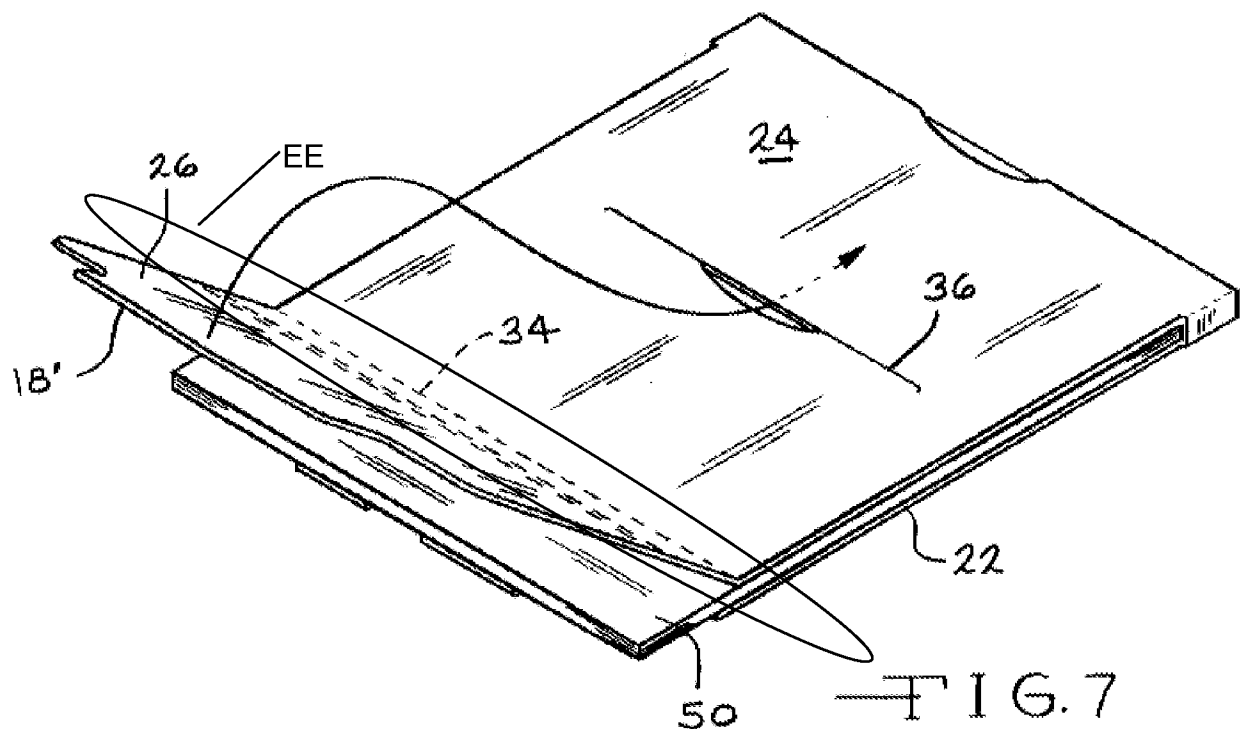
Claims 10 and 17: printer (abstract); package member (20); sheet package (10); base (24); flap part (26); tongue part (18); first wrapping part (40A); second wrapping part (40B); opposite side of the package member (24); edge at an end (see FIG. 7 below, EE);

Claim 11: crease (34); flap part (26); base (24); package member (20);

Claim 12: tongue part (18); base (24); flap part (26);

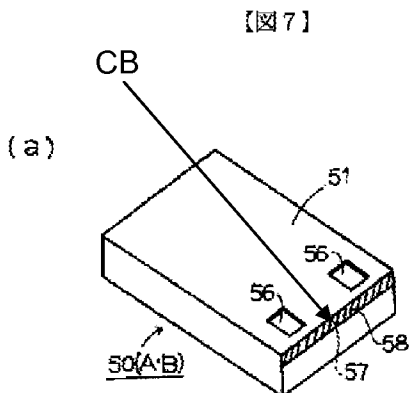
Claim 13: base (24); cut (38); flap part (26); sheet package (10);

Claim 14: tongue part (18); cut (36); flap part (26).



Stier does not directly show a distal-most continuous boundary (Note: on page 5, lines 1-4 of Stier, the "end configuration may vary from device to device").

Tanaka shows a similar device having a distal-most continuous boundary (see figure 7 below, CB) for the purpose of keeping the sheet surface away from stains, flaws, bending, corner folding or the like in a sheet handling process (English abstract). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention to modify Stier as taught by Tanaka and include Tanaka's similar device having a distal-most continuous boundary for the purpose of keeping the sheet surface away from stains, flaws, bending, corner folding or the like in a sheet handling process.



Claim 15, as understood by the Examiner, is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stier in view of Ishiduka (US 6,217,019) ("Ishiduka") and further in view of Tanaka. Stier discloses:

Claim 15: printer (abstract); package member (20); recloseable flap member (18); joining part (40A/40B); first fastening member (38); first side (24); second fastening member (36); second side (22); edge at an end (see FIG. 7 above, EE).

Stier does not directly show an indicator part or a window of the printer or a distal-most continuous boundary (Note: on page 5, lines 1-4 of Stier, the "end configuration may vary from device to device").

Ishiduka shows a similar device having an indicator part (29a) and a window of the printer (44; Note: 35 is part of the printer) for the purpose of reading the paper information from a bar code (column 6, lines 23-24). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention to modify Stier as taught by Ishiduka and include Ishiduka's similar device having an indicator part

Art Unit: 3653

and a window of the printer for the purpose of reading the paper information from a bar code.

Tanaka shows a similar device having a distal-most continuous boundary (see figure 7 below, CB) for the purpose of keeping the sheet surface away from stains, flaws, bending, corner folding or the like in a sheet handling process (English abstract). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention to modify Stier as taught by Tanaka and include Tanaka's similar device having a distal-most continuous boundary for the purpose of keeping the sheet surface away from stains, flaws, bending, corner folding or the like in a sheet handling process.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to all the claims have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Gerald W. McClain whose telephone number is (571)272-7803. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Patrick H. Mackey can be reached on (571) 272-6916. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic

Art Unit: 3653

Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Gerald W. McClain
Examiner
Art Unit 3653

/Patrick H. Mackey/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art
Unit 3653